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Featuring: Annual Crop Production Grain Stocks Cotton Ginnings
Hay Stocks Milk Production

Row Crops Perform Well Despite Dry Conditions

Although Tennessee's 2005 growing season was one of the driest in recent years, early plantings and timely rains helped produce above normal yields, according to a recent survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office. The state's cotton farmers produced the largest number of bales on record, surpassing the previous mark set a year earlier. Corn yields, although well below the previous year's record, were 5 bushels above the 5-year average. Soybean yields were down from last year as well, but three bushels above normal. Burley tobacco acreage continued its rapid decline with farmers growing less than 20,000 acres for the first time since 1922. State Director Debra Kenerson noted that, "Rainfall, brought on by the remnants of numerous hurricanes which crossed through the State, helped alleviate dry conditions and turned an average crop year into an above normal one."

Cotton Production Tops Last Year's Record

Tennessee's cotton production is estimated at a state record 1,120,000 bales, up 14 percent from the previous record set in 2004. Producers planted 640,000 acres, up 110,000 from 2004. The State's final yield is forecast to average 847 pounds of lint per acre, down 53 pounds from the previous year's record yield of 900 pounds per acre. Growing conditions for the cotton crop in 2005 were generally favorable, but weather for cotton harvest was fantastic and translated into more lint and good quality. Nearly all the crop had been ginned by the end of December.

Corn Production Down 10 Percent, Sorghum Up 20 Percent

Corn for grain production is estimated at 77.4 million bushels, down 10 percent from 2004. The final yield, at 130 bushels per acre, was down 10 bushels from the record high of 140 bushels per acre set the previous season. Tennessee corn producers planted 650,000 acres during 2005, down 30,000 from a year earlier. Harvested area for grain was 595,000 acres and 50,000 acres for silage. Silage yield, at 19.0 tons per acre, was the same as 2004 with production totaling 950,000 tons. The majority of the corn crop was planted on schedule by mid-May.

The rest of the season was characterized by mostly dry weather interrupted by the remnants of hurricanes that passed through the state. Harvest weather was ideal, allowing farmers to reach completion by mid-October. Grain sorghum production in 2005 is estimated at 1.84 million bushels, up 20 percent from 2004. Area harvested for grain, at 20,000 acres, was up 3,000 acres from 2004, while average yield, at 92 bushels per acre, was up 2 bushels from the same period.

Soybean Production Down 14 Percent

The State's final soybean yield is estimated at 38 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from the previous year. Soybean production, at 41.8 million bushels, was down 14 percent from a year earlier, but 8 percent above the average for the previous five years. Producers planted 1,130,000 acres and harvested for beans 1,100,000 acres, down 80,000 acres from the previous year for both categories. Soybean planting began during the last week of April and continued at a rapid pace until completion near the middle of June, about 2 weeks ahead of normal. Development also followed this speedy pace and allowed harvest to be completed nearly 3 weeks ahead of the five-year average. Double-cropped soybean yields surprised many producers, as solid yields were reported in areas which received significant rainfall the beginning of September from Katrina.

Lowest Burley Production in 77 Years

Burley tobacco growers expect to produce 34.0 million pounds, down 26 percent from 2004 and the lowest production since 1928. Yield per acre averaged 2,000 pounds, up 80 pounds from a year earlier. Growers harvested 17,000 acres, down 29 percent from the previous year. Despite disease problems and dry weather, development progressed at a near normal pace with the crop rated in mostly good condition throughout the season. By the first week of November, growers had stripped over half of the burley crop. Tennessee's dark fire-cured tobacco yields are estimated at 3,000 pounds, down 115 pounds from 2004. Dark air-cured yields are estimated at 2,600 pounds per acre, down 150 pounds from a year earlier.

Hay Production Fourth Largest on Record

Hay production, at 4.37 million tons, was down 11 percent from the 2004 record crop, but still the fourth largest since records began in 1909. Hay acreage, at 1,885,000, was down 3 percent from a year earlier. Hay production, excluding alfalfa, at 4.26 million tons, was 10 percent lower than 2004. These hay producers harvested 1.85 million acres, 50,000 acres less than a year earlier with a final yield of 2.30 tons per acre, down 0.2 tons from the previous year. Total alfalfa production, at 112,000 tons, was down 16 percent from 2004. Alfalfa producers harvested 35,000 acres with a yield of 3.20 tons per acre, down 0.6 tons from last year. Hay harvest got off to a slow start due to cool, wet weather during late April and into early May. Drier conditions followed soon after and continued for the remainder of the season. A dry fall hampered growth of hay fields and prevented many farmers from obtaining their typical second and third cuttings. Growers seeded 5,000 acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures during 2005.

2006 Winter Wheat Acreage up 25 Percent

Total wheat acreage for 2006 is forecast at 300,000 acres, up 60,000 acres from 2005. Winter wheat planting was underway by the last week of September with 5 percent of the crop seeded by October 2. By mid-month, 27 percent of the expected crop was sown, with farmers awaiting rains to help germination. Dry conditions continued and by month's end, farmers had two-thirds of their acreage seeded with a little over a fourth emerged. Through November 27, virtually all of the winter wheat had been sown with 85 percent emerged and poor-to-fair stands being reported.

Crop Estimates: Tennessee and United States, Final 2005, with Comparisons

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	11,000	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	615	595	140	130	86,100	77,350
Corn for silage	ton	55	50	19	19	1,045	950
Cotton ¹	lb.	525	635	900	847	984	1,120
Cottonseed	ton	---	---	---	---	336	391
Hay, All	ton	1,935	1,885	2.52	2.32	4,883	4,367
Other	ton	1,900	1,850	2.50	2.30	4,750	4,255
Alfalfa	ton	35	35	3.80	3.20	133	112
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1.95	1.90
Sorghum for grain	bu.	17	20	90	92	1,530	1,840
Sorghum for silage	ton	2	1	16	15	32	15
Soybeans	bu.	1,180	1,100	41.0	38.0	48,380	41,800
Tobacco, All	lb.	30.26	22.95	2,161	2,251	65,381	51,670
Dark fire-cured	lb.	5.72	5.50	3,115	3,000	17,816	16,500
Burley	lb.	24.0	17.0	1,920	2,000	46,080	34,000
Dark air-cured	lb.	.54	.45	2,750	2,600	1,485	1,170
Winter Wheat	bu.	280	150	49.0	56.0	13,720	8,400
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	10,419,900	9,379,100
Corn for grain	bu.	73,631	75,107	160.4	147.9	11,807,086	11,112,072
Corn for silage	ton	6,101	5,920	17.6	18.0	107,293	106,311
Cotton ¹	lb.	13,057.0	13,702.6	855	831	23,250.7	23,719.0
Cottonseed	ton	---	---	---	---	8,242.1	8,501.0
Hay, All	ton	61,966	61,649	2.55	2.44	158,247	150,590
Other	ton	40,259	39,260	2.06	1.91	82,766	74,819
Alfalfa	ton	21,707	22,389	3.48	3.38	75,481	75,771
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1,307.1	1,233.9
Sorghum for grain	bu.	6,517	5,736	69.6	68.7	453,654	393,893
Sorghum for silage	ton	352	311	13.6	13.6	4,776	4,218
Soybeans	bu.	73,958	71,361	42.2	43.3	3,123,686	3,086,432
Tobacco, All	lb.	408.05	298.02	2,161	2,147	881,973	639,709
Dark fire-cured	lb.	11.73	11.84	3,167	3,174	37,151	37,580
Burley	lb.	153.15	100.10	1,908	1,952	292,172	195,362
Dark air-cured	lb.	4.26	4.15	2,799	2,778	11,922	11,530
Winter Wheat	bu.	34,462	33,794	43.5	44.4	1,499,434	1,499,129

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

Grain Stocks: Tennessee and U.S., December 1, 2004-2005 with Comparisons

	Tennessee			United States		
	Dec 1, 2004	Sept 1, 2005	Dec 1, 2005	Dec 1, 2004	Sept 1, 2005	Dec 1, 2005
1,000 Bushels						
On-Farm Stocks ¹						
Corn				6,144,000	820,500	6,325,000
Wheat				531,020	721,360	513,000
Soybeans				1,300,000	99,700	1,345,000
Grain Sorghum				78,700	5,900	55,000
Oats				60,400	71,700	60,100
Off-Farm Stocks ²						
Corn	18,085	1,211	16,101	3,308,488	1,293,472	3,487,835
Wheat	8,283	9,457	9,230	899,306	1,201,931	916,531
Soybeans	8,051	³	6,815	1,004,640	156,038	1,157,389
Grain Sorghum	³	³	703	203,505	51,041	233,891
Oats	³	65	³	44,513	41,803	35,635
Total Stocks ¹						
Corn				9,452,488	2,113,972	9,812,835
Wheat				1,430,326	1,923,291	1,429,531
Soybeans				2,304,640	255,738	2,502,389
Grain Sorghum				282,205	56,941	288,891
Oats				104,913	113,503	95,735

¹ Estimates for Tennessee on-farm stocks are not published. ² Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors. ³ Not published to avoid disclosures of individual operations.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) Prior to January 1, 2006 Crop Years 2002-2005

	Running Bales Ginned			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
All Cotton				
AL	537,250	781,100	769,300	802,050
AZ	524,550	438,550	534,600	462,000
AR	1,610,400	1,734,150	2,006,500	2,099,600
CA	1,781,400	1,666,300	2,059,750	1,401,200
FL	64,950	119,350	91,700	111,200
GA	1,461,250	1,957,100	1,711,700	1,976,450
KS	30,850	39,600	18,300	70,400
LA	748,150	1,028,300	888,200	1,105,650
MS	1,868,400	2,055,900	2,263,700	2,089,300
MO	578,750	674,200	806,800	864,400
NM	52,550	52,700	55,050	60,350
NC	757,750	989,850	1,304,050	1,311,150
OK	175,150	185,750	219,950	267,500
SC	116,150	299,050	356,000	372,300
TN	785,200	843,600	947,150	1,082,900
TX	4,477,250	3,913,400	4,751,600	5,876,100
VA	84,000	103,650	140,400	161,600
US	15,654,000	16,882,550	18,924,750	20,114,150

Tennessee Hay Stocks

Stocks of all hay stored on Tennessee farms totaled 3.63 million tons on December 1, 2005, down 14 percent from 2004's record. Stocks represented 83 percent of this year's production, which is slightly more than normal. Moisture from the remnants of late season hurricanes revitalized many pastures, allowing producers to continue grazing into late Fall, and thus preserving their hay supplies.

Hay: Stocks on Farms by Selected States and United States, December 1 and May 1, 2003-2005

State	December 1			May 1	
	2003	2004 ¹	2005	2004	2005 ¹
	1,000 Tons			1,000 Tons	
AL	1,764	1,965	1,575	487	356
AR	2,700	3,200	2,000	600	660
GA	1,494	1,345	1,350	342	292
KY	5,035	4,742	4,390	1,466	1,186
MS	1,125	1,159	1,567	244	199
MO	7,148	8,101	6,315	1,462	2,166
NC	1,625	1,545	1,245	405	350
TN	3,830	4,199	3,625	1,182	1,025
US	111,027	114,516	105,056	25,947	27,758

¹ Revised

Milk Production

Milk production in **Tennessee** during the October-December quarter was 257 million pounds, down 13 million pounds from the October-December period the year earlier. The average number of milk cows in Tennessee during the quarter was 69,000 head, 4,000 head less than the same period in 2004.

Milk production in the **U.S.** during the October - December quarter totaled 43.6 billion pounds, up 3.9 percent from the October - December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.05 million head, 31,000 head more than the same period last year.

Quarterly Milk Production: Tennessee and United States, October-December 2004-2005

Item	Unit	Tennessee		United States	
		2004	2005	2004	2005
Milk cows on farms ¹	1,000 hd.	73	69	9,019	9,050
Milk production ²	Mil. lbs.	270	257	41,983	43,605

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ² Excludes milk sucked by calves.